

What is claimed is:

1. A formulation for desensitizing skin and hair follicles comprising  
a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic;  
a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;  
homopolymers;  
copolymers; and  
plant extract oils.
2. A formulation according to claim 1 further comprising a thickener.
3. A formulation according to claim 2, wherein said thickener is replaced by water.
4. A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said topical anesthetic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, and procaine.
5. A formulation according to claim 4, where said topical anesthetic is benzocaine.
6. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein said solubilizer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, diethyl adipate, diisopropyl adipate, dimethyl molonate, dibutyl sebacate, dibutyl adipate, diethyl pimelate, diethyl suberate, diethyl azelate, methyl ethyl succinate, and diethyl isosuccinate.
7. A formulation according to claim 6 wherein said solubilizer is diethyl sebacate or diethyl adipate.
8. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein said homopolymer is either polyethylene glycol or polypropylene glycol.
9. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein said copolymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone-hexadecene.

10. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein said plant extract oils comprise one or more members of a group consisting of tea tree oil, yling-ying oil, tangerine oil, chamomile oil, jasmine oil, Egyptian musk oil, sandalwood oil, coconut oil, and peppermint oil.
11. A formulation according to claim 10 wherein said plant extract oils provide fragrant properties to said oil-based formulation.
12. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein said thickener is white petroleum.
13. A formulation according to claim 4 wherein said homopolymer has a molecular weight in the range of about 400 to about 1000.
14. A formulation according to claim 5 wherein said copolymer has a molecular weight in the range of about 5000 to about 10,000.
15. A formulation according to claim 5 wherein said copolymer is present in a range of about 7 to about 10 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.
16. A formulation according to claim 4 wherein said homopolymer is present in a range of about 20 to about 25 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.
17. A formulation according to claim 10 wherein said plant extract oils are present in a range of about 11 to about 15 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.
18. A formulation according to claim 3 wherein said solubilizer is present in a range of about 30 to about 40 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.
19. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein said emulsion is a lotion.
20. A method of desensitizing the scalp prior to a hair treatment
  - applying a topical anesthetic containing composition to the scalp;
  - allowing the composition to remain on the scalp a long enough time to desensitize the treated area; and
  - wherein the topical anesthetic containing composition contains a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic.

21. A method of desensitizing the skin comprising applying the composition of claim 1 to the skin.
22. A method of desensitizing the scalp comprising  
applying a topical anesthetic containing composition to the scalp;  
permitting said composition to remain on the scalp thereby desensitizing the scalp;  
removing said composition from the scalp.
23. A method according to claim 22, wherein said topical anesthetic containing composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic.
24. A method according to claim 22, wherein a hair treatment procedure is performed after the composition is removed from the scalp.